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DEFECTOR-CIA

OTTAWA (AP) -- SOLICITOR-GENERAL ROBERT KAPLAN CONFIRMED THURSDAY THAT A POLISH DIPLOMAT DEFECTED IN CANADA AND IS NOW OUT OF THE COUNTRY, BUT WOULD NOT COMMENT ON REPORTS THE DIPLOMAT HAD BEEN TAKEN TO CIA HEADQUARTERS IN LANGLEY, VA.

HE SAID MAREK OSTASZEWICZ, A CLERK IN THE POLISH CONSULATE IN TORONTO, DEFECTED OCT. 8.

''I DON'T EXPECT THAT HE WILL LIVE IN CANADA OR THAT HE WILL RETURN TO CANADA,'' KAPLAN TOLD REPORTERS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. HE SAID ''MORE THAN ONE'' NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WAS INVOLVED, BUT WOULD NOT RESPOND WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE CIA WAS INCLUDED.

OPPOSITION LEGISLATOR ALLAN LAWRENCE, A FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL, SUGGESTED IN THE COMMONS THAT THE DEFECTOR HAS GONE TO THE UNITED STATES, RAISING QUESTIONS ABOUT CANADA'S SECURITY SERVICE.

''WHEN IMPLICATIONS OF LACK OF CREDIBILITY ARISE, THERE SHOULD BE A PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR OWN (SECURITY) PEOPLE,'' HE SAID.

KAPLAN SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER IN PUBLIC, BUT OFFERED TO TALK PRIVATELY WITH LAWRENCE.

THE TORONTO STAR REPORTED THURSDAY THAT OSTASZEWICZ CARRIED OUT QUIET NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE BEFORE HEADING TO WASHINGTON, AND HAD BEEN QUESTIONED AT CIA HEADQUARTERS.

KAPLAN SAID THERE WERE SOME INACCURACIES IN THE STORY, HE REFUSED TO SAY WHAT THEY WERE.

THE SOLICITOR GENERAL SAID THE WAY THE OPERATION WAS HANDLED ''WAS DONE WITH MY PRIOR APPROVAL. THE ACTUAL DEFECTION OCCURRED VERY RECENTLY BUT I WAS MADE AWARE OF SOME POSSIBILITIES AND GAVE SOME DIRECTION SOME TIME AGO.''

EARLIER IN THE COMMONS, HE INDICATED HE KNEW ABOUT THE PLANNED DEFECTION SOME MONTHS AGO, BUT ''I WOULDN'T SAY I HELPED IN THE DEFECTION.''

HE REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER CANADIAN AUTHORITIES ENCOURAGED THE POLISH DIPLOMAT TO DEFECT.

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